Amnsements Co-Night.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC-Perim Ball. BOOTH'S THEATRE—S—" Monte Cristo."
CHEKERING HALL—4—Organ Recital. DALY'S THEATRE—S:15—"Seven-Twenty-Eight."
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—S-"The New Iolanthe." GRAND OPERA HOUSE-8-" The Black Fing." HAVERLY'S 14TH STREET THEATRE-S-"Siberia." HESDERSON'S STANDARD THEATRE-8-" Micaela."
MADISON SQUARE THEATRE-8:30-" Young Mrs. Winthrop.

MIBLO'S GARDEN-8-" Fritz." BAR FRANCISCO OPERA HOUSE-S-San Francisco Min-

streis. THALIA THEATRE-8-"Kenn." THEATRE COMIQUE—2 and 8—" McSoriey's Inflation."
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—8—" A Parisian Romance."
WALLACK'S THEATRE—7:45—"The Silver King

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BRANCH OFFICES OF THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON-No. 1,322 F-st. LONDON-No. 26 Bedford-st., Strand. PARIS-No. 9 Rue Scribe.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 15. THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Foreign.-In the House of Commons yesterday Mr. Parnell's bill amending the Land Act was rejected by a vote of 250 to 63. Several Nihilists have been arrested in Russia. The report that President Grévy intends to resign is semi-officially denied. ___ A branch of the "Black Hand" So ciety has been discovered in Portugal. === The feneral of M. Coumoundouros took place in Athens on Tuesday. === The decree prohibiting the impartation of American hog products into Germany has been issued. === The Italian Minister of Poreign Affairs has made a statement regarding the relations between Italy and the great powers.

DOMESTIC .- In the Star Route trial yesterday Turner and Brady testified for the defence, Nicholas L. Dukes, charged with the murder of Captain Nutt, was acquitted yesterday in Unionrtown, Penn, = Ex-Governor Sprag inated for Governor by the Independents of Rhode Island, = Senator David Davis was married at Tokay, N. C. = James Dunn, a contractor of Long Branch, has been missing since Saturday. The Rev. Dr. De Normandie was installed as pastor of the first Religious Society of Roxbury,
Mass. —— Governor Butler vetoed the bill making appropriations for the expenses of charitable insti-Tutions. - Henry Seybert's will was admitted to

probate in Philadelphia. CITY AND SUBURBAN.-Patrick Egan passed a busy day yesterday. === The Park Commissioners and the Emigration Board held excited meetings. One hundred and sixty-seven men were graduated from the Bellevue Hospital Medical College. = The trial or Mr. Neville's suit against the Fifth Avenue Hotel was continued. === The inquest in the case of Mrs. Wakeman and her daughter was held. ____ Alexander Jefferson was convicted of murder in the first degree in Brooklyn. Several companions of McGloin, the murderer, were arrested for highway robbery. ==== Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (41212 grains), 84.17 cents. ___ Stocks generally were dull, and fluctumied within a narrow range; they closed barely steady.

THE WEATHER .- TRIBUNE local observations indicate clear and partly cloudy weather, with chances of light rain during the afternoon and lewer temperatures at night. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 53°; lowest, 33°; average, 4258°.

The acquittal at Uniontown, Penn., of Dukes, who killed his friend, Captain Nutt, leaves shocking crime unexpiated. According to his own statement Dukes coolly violated the most sacred rules of hospitality. Next he insulted and roused to fury the injured father of his victim. Finally he shot him. Dukes says Nutt attacked him, and that he fired in selfdefence. The evidence did not seem to show St, and the community will agree with the judge who declared that an altogether different verdict would have been justified.

The Irish members scored another defeat for themselves in Parliament yesterday. Mr. Parcell's bill to annul the Land Act was re-Sected by a vote of 250 nays to 63 yeas. This leaves the Irish party weaker even than it was at the close of the debate on the address to the Throne. Mr. Parnell and his friends thus having failed to force Parliament to make this an Irish session by legal methods in the House of Commons, we may now look to see them try to accomplish their end by umlawful means in Ireland. Mr. Gladstone struck the Irish leader a telling blow yesterday when he asked for an assurance that the new crusade would be conducted in a strictly legal manner.

Paterson, N. J., is a city whose prosperity depends almost entirely upon iron and silk nufactures-industries which have been fostered and developed to the highest degree by the protective tariff. Some of the citizens of the place, however, who are on the Board of Education, do not seem to realize this. If they did, they would hardly have adopted as a text book in the public schools, a manual on political economy the teachings of which are said to be in the direction of free trade. The introduction of such a book is not likely to

dren. The facts constantly before their eyes will undoubtedly outweigh the theories in their books. Still, the prospect of having their children filled with pernicious free-trade doctrines can hardly be pleasing to the manufacturers and other citizens of Paterson who understand perfectly to what they owe their prosperity.

The bids for the privileges at Castle Garden prove conclusively (if any proof is needed) that the Emigration Commissioners in performing their duties heretofore have not had public interest at heart nearly so much as the private advantage of "Barney" Biglin and other persons doing business there. Double the amounts now paid by the tenants of the Garden were offered vesterday by outsiders, and it looks as if presently the work of receiving and caring for immigrants would be conducted on business principles, and with some regard for burdened taxpayers. Meanwhile the Commissioners themselves keep up a disgraceful wrangling at every meeting. Far be it from us to say that the epithets which they applied to each other yesterday were not apprepriate. The Commissioners know one another best, and best know how each should address his fellows. But we heartily second Mr. Stephenson's amendment that the Legislature be urged to abolish him and the other Commissioners completely.

The person who by a false advertisement sent hundreds of poor women on a fool's errand to Wall-st. yesterday must be very thoughtless or wicked. Something like the old-fashioned horsewhipping is what he deserves. The embarrassment of the firm whose office was besieged is as nothing compared with the mortification and disappointment of the applicants for work. In some cases the heartless joke caused real distress, for a number of the wemen had spent their last penny in car-fare to get to Wall-st. Others lost a day's work or possible chances of finding labor elsewhere. Aside from the immediately painful features of the affair this sad joke thrusts an unpleasant fact upon public notice the weight of which only philanthropic persons generally realize-that is the great number of helpless women who at all times in this city are on the verge of actual want. And it is worthy of note that it is not " higher education" or homilies on true womanliness that these women need. It is work to keep them honest and from starvation.

In another column of this issue we print a vigorous letter from John Jay in relation to the "freedom of worship bill," so called, which is now pending in the Legislature. Mr. Jay contends that the bill ought not to become a law, and we believe that the arguments he presents will be generally regarded by sensible, conservacive men, no matter what their church relations, as unanswerable by any person who subscribes to our American governmental system. Mr. Jay shrewdly points out that the bill, so far from providing for "freedom of worship," is in reality a blow at that fundamental right, and is urged only by those who acknowledge an ecclesiastical authority that denies that right. To pass it would open the doors of our House of Refuge to sectarianism at the expense of discipline, and that is all that it would accomplish. Under its present management the House of Refuge is perfectly hospitable to all religious denominations, all having the free use of its chapel, but it is inhospitable to proselyting, as it is to anything else calculated to promote strife and dissension and so to impair the efficiency of the institution. Mr. Jay presents these and other points with great force. We commend what he says to legislators who will be called upon to vote on this bill, and to all others who feel an interest in the important question which it involves.

THE RAILROAD QUESTION.

It is one of the misfortunes of free government that the party out of power must find something to complain about. The Democratic party can no longer complain because some people wish to abolish human slavery. It can no longer complain because the Government proposes to put down a wicked rebellion. It can no longer complain because systematic assassinations for opposing the Democratic party are repressed by military force, or because the only possible defence for his freedom, the right of suffrage, is offered to the colored citizen. Nor can it complain because resumption of specie payments is impossible, or because United States bonds are not paid with depreciated paper, or because the burden of public debt created in the suppression of a Democratic rebellion presses heavily upon the people. It hoped to be able to complain because the Civil Service had not been reformed, but found that reform effected by its opponents. It hoped to have room to complain because taxation had not been reduced, but found that it could not agree with itself on that subject, while its opponents did agree, and reduced the taxes.

The party out of power will be obliged to find some new subject of complaint. Some of its members still believe that they can ride into power on a greater reduction of the tariff. But they will find, before the next session of Congress has ended, that the Democratic leaders who wish to muzzle the party on that subject have ample power to prevent action until after a Presidential election. Four-fitths of the party will refuse to uphold the present tariff, while its voters in New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio will make its success absolutely impossible if it commits itself to duties still lower than those of the tariff just enacted. Hence the party must find a new subject of complaint. There are not wanting signs that it will undertake to capture public opinion by a warfare against corporations, and particularly against railroad companies.

When Judge Black fired off his gun against the railroads, some time ago, THE TRIBUNE observed that he was pointing out a path which the demagogues of his party were likely to follow. There are a good many people, in different parts of the country, who believe that the one thing needful at this time is to subject the railroads to some form of legislative or other governmental restraint. The evils that have resulted from unrestricted competition or corporate mismanagement these people see through magnifying glasses of high power, while the benefits which have been secured for the country by the unrestricted growth and action of the railroads they do not see at all. The Democratic party is so constituted that it can pretend to advocate almost any conceivable absurdity or wrong, so long as it seems to offer a chance of success, without losing the support of the intelligent, substantial and reputable citizens who act as its figure-heads in the different States. How many of these men turned against the party, for example, when it resolved to pay United States bonds in greenbacks ? Its soft-money beresies did not detach Mr. Hewitt or Mr. Payne; its ultra free-trade declarations did not abate the zeal of Mr. Randall or Mr.

Whenever the Democratic party adopts some new Communistic dodge, and appeals to those who have nothing to join in a raid against invested property, we shall hear these decorous

"trusted to behave with conservatism when it once gets power." So Mr. Hewitt said recently about the tariff question, and on the same plea men who have known that Democratic heresies were utterly infamous, and destructive of social order and free government, have nevertheless adhered to it and fought for it through all its misconduct. On the same plea, reputable and conservative men will uphold the party, even though it begins a raid of the most indefensible sort against property of any kind.

Partisan feeling, however, has no such mastery over the large majority of sensible citizens. Many thousands of these refused to support the Democratic party in repudiation or inflation; others refuse to support it in an attempt to destroy the protective system; and others will turn against the party whenever it unjustly assails corporate or other property rights. These sensible citizens know that the railroad system in this country is defective or faulty in many things, but they know also that it has conferred incalculable benefits upon the people. They know that the railroad system has nowhere been equally beneficial when it has been subjected to governmental restraint. They know that virtual confiscation of property is not a remedy for any existing evil. Reasonable measures of regulation they might uphold, but the Democratic party will not propose such measures, for it could not hope by so doing to attract the support of the knaves or the lunatics. The mere demagogue is always compelled to go far beyond the limits of reason or justice in order to get popular support.

On this question, as on every other with which it has attempted to deal for more than a quarter of a century, the Democratic party will fail, because the people have justice and common sense. That party is not able to put itself in harmony with the conscientious and reasonable majority of voters, partly because it does not believe that the majority is reasonable and conscientious, and partly because, in order to win, it feels compelled to play the demagogue and to appeal to unjust and unreasonable prejudices. It is tikely that the railroad question may occasion a severe struggle. But justice and reason will prevail, because the people have reason and want justice.

PATRICK EGAN'S EXPLANATION.

The sudden appearance of the Land League's former treasurer in this country excites not a little curiosity. Why does he come at this time, and why were his departure from Dublin and his arrival here so shreuded in mystery? He has made a long statement concerning himself and his affairs, and while it is interesting reading it furnishes no adequate answers to the questions asked above. He says he came chiefly on commercial business, with the secondary objects of helping his friend Sheridan in his extradition case and of attending the approaching Land League Convention in Philadelphia. It these were his purposes, why all this secrecy ? According to his own account he was very quiet, not to say shy, in his journey from Dublin through London and Paris to Rotterdam, and there was no ostentation about his manner of taking passage for America. He had nothing to fear in Great Britain except a thorough exposure of the Land League accounts, and if those are all right, as he says they are, why throw doubt upon his own assertions by running away from investigation?

He cannot expect that the explanation he gives of the expenditures of the money is going to satisfy the public. His only reply to Lady Florence Dixie's charge that there is a discrepancy of £120,000 in his accounts, is that she is the "mouthpiece of Richard Pigott." She has denied this already, and her word is fully as good as his; but even without her denial, his answer is no answer at all. Neither do the old charges about bribery and jury-packing furnish adequate excuse for Mr. Egan's sudden flight to so distant a haven as America. It is a pity he should come so far and have nothing satisfactory to say when he reaches here.

The collection of Irish patriots in this country is getting large, and if Mr. Parnell comes over next month with several of his colleagues it will be imposing enough to excite curiosity. What is the object of this combined descent on America? Is there to be a grand revival attempted of the drooping interest in Irish affairs and a new fund called for ? If so, will the masses of the American-Irish contribute just as freely to the new fund as they did to the old in spite of the undispelled doubt about where a good deal of the money in the first has gone? Possibly; the Irish are a peculiar people and easily led by sham patriots.

CHEAP MONEY ORDERS.

A Republican Congress has not only revised the tariff, made large reductions in internal revenue and passed the best Civil Service bill which professional reformers could devise, but it has also enacted various measures of great practical utility. Among these the most conspicuous are the acts relating to the Post Office. This is the department of the National administration with which the public is brought into the closest relations, and hence marked improvements and positive reforms in the postal service invariably command general attention and popular appreciation. There has been a most pressing demand from all parts of the country for a reduction of postal rates, and the measure which is to go into effect on the 1st of October has already received a hearty welcome from the public. Another measure was passed so quietly that it has not attracted so much attention as it deserved. Its merits are so obvious that when it is once understood it will be accepted generally as a reform only second in importance to cheap postage.

This measure is the Postal Note Act, deagned primarily to meet the demand for cheaper money orders. The postal note will be a money order for any sum less than five dollars, payable to the bearer, at any post-office designated by the purchaser, within three months from the last day of the month of issue. As it can be obtained without a written application, it can be purchased almost as quickly as a postage stamp. The postmaster, or clerk, will simply have to write the name of the post-office at which it is to be paid and to punch five holes on the margin for the date and the dollars and cents; and the bearer, who presents it for payment, will merely write his name on the back as a receipt. As it is issued without letters of advice, it is nade payable to the bearer, either at the office drawn upon or at the office where it is purchased. The security being decreased through the absence of letters of advice and means of identification, the fee is reduced to three cents. The processes of purchasing and collecting are greatly simplifled, and the expense of the usual postal order is materially reduced. It will be a cheap and most convenient mode of transmitting small amounts of money through the mails. Purchased without delay or annoyance, the postal note will take the place of the war-time fractional currency and the peace-time postage stamp; and while it will not come into permanent use as currency, it can pass from hand to hand and thus facilitate the process of collec-

"merely a political fetch; the party can be cal benefits from this new system of cheap money orders. THE TRIBUNE, for example, receives every year thousands upon thousands of small remittances from subscribers and club agents. Whenever a club is organized, a series of remittances is required, for the subscriptions are often renewed at different dates; and this has been a constant source of annoyance and expense to managers of clubs. A single subscription for the semi-weekly or weekly edition could not be forwarded by money order without its involving a fee of ten cents, and added to the expense were the delay and inconvenience of filling out the application blanks. The only substitute for the cumbersome money order was the too adhesive postage stamp. Now the postal note will afford country subscribers and those interested in forming and managing newspaper clubs an easy and convenient mode of making remittances, and at the same time will only involve the expense of a single three cent stamp. The advantage of having some cheap substitute for the present methods of remitting small amounts will be readily appreciated, not only by regular subscribers, but in every newspaper counting-room.

The postal note will be of great benefit to the newspaper trade. Book-publishers will also introduction. The pattern and seed trades, which are now receiving remittances largely in postage stamps, will have a currency which can be redeemed without loss. All dealers in merchandise of small value will readily appreciate the advantages of cheap postal notes.

The process of purchasing by sample will also be facilitated, and a trade which has already acquired large proportions, especially in dry-goods, will be enlarged by the facility with which remittances can be sent, after cards of samples have been received. Altogether the postal note can scarcely fail to be a popular form of currency. It will be introduced some time before September, probably about the 1st of July.

CHARACTERISTIC.

Our Democratic Legislature was called upon yesterday to elect a Superintendent of Public Instruction. It is a position of the first importance. No interests in the State are so vital as the educational interests, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction more than any other one man can promote or impair them, since he is set over our great common school system. To claim, then, that the incumbent of the office should be an experienced and accomplished educator is to state a proposition too plain for argument.

But in its selection of a Superintendent of Public Instruction, this Legislature, following the course which it has pursued since the session opened, had regard only to partisan considerations. Mr. Ruggles, who was elected yesterday, has no standing whatever as an educator. Nearly every other man whose name was presented for the consideration of the caucus called to nominate a Superintendent is well known in the educational circles of the State. Mr. McMillan has been for fifteen years Superintendent of the Utica schools; Mr. Danforth was for six years Superintendent of Schools in Troy and Elmira, and has served as deputy in the Department of Public Instruction; Mr. Clapp is the Superintendent of the Geneva union schools; Mr. Dundon, of this city, Mr. Whalen, of Saratoga, Mr. Ross, of Seneca Falls, Mr. Hamilton, of Brooklyn, are also teachers of long experience and approved capacity. But all these were compelled to stand aside and see the Superintendency given to a fair to middling lawyer, possessing no special qualification for the position, but possessing what they did not possess-the benediction of the Democratic managers. If the educators of the State, like Dean Swift's servant, are " good at drawing inferences," they will be apt to conclude that political influence, not fitness for the duties of the office, is what elects a man Superintendent of Public Instruction.

It is a beautiful and consistent record that this Democratic Legislature is making. . For partisan reasons it allowed the oleomargarine interest to appoint a Railroad Commissioner. For partisan reasons it gave Mr. Bliss the seat to which Mr. Sprague had been elected. And now for partisan reasons it sends the educators of the State to the rear and elects Mr. Ruggles Superintendent of Public Instruction.

William Sprague is being more or less nominated for his old place as Governor of Rhode Island; and the shrewder Republicans look upon the movement as seriously threatening. The Governor has always had a certain popularity with the less educated and less well-to-do classes of his State, which his later vagaries have only tended to increase It is not in the least outside the possibilities that after financial ruin and social disaster, he may again attain the place to which only the prestige of inherited wealth originally carried him. It has been the fashion of late years to speak of the ex-Governor as half-crazy or balf-witted. But he has flashes of quite aucommon sagacity, and whoever picks him up for a fool is apt to get burnt fingers for his pains. It was Sprague who said, reflectively, one day, in the Senate, "There is nothing more cowardly than a half million; excepting a million." He is likely enough to make his present campaign in that spirit.

"A most dangerous counterfeit of the silver dollar" is reported from the West. "It has the exact weight, ring and appearance of the genuine, and its outer coating resists the acid test," The wonder is that men capable of such artistic work should take the trouble to make a counterfest at all, when they can make money as fast as anybody need want, merely by manufacturing the genuine dollar, If they can so exactly reproduce the exterior of the silver dollar, why not fill it with silver? Do just what the United States is dishouest enough to do: Buy 84 cents' worth of silver, stamp it a dollar, and net 16 cents profit on every coin passed. That would be the reductio ad absurdum of our present coinage swindle, and the skilful coiners could snap their fingers at detectives. Still, there would be one trouble. The Government can't get people to take 84-cent dollars out of the genuine its vaults. Perhaps the counterfeiters might have equal trouble, even if they made as honest

PERSONAL.

The late Alexander H. Stephens always occupied n Washington one certain set of rooms-the rooms formerly occupied by Henry Clay.

Dr. Howard Crosby writes to the Scribners propos of a new volume that " no books of travel have ever so fascinated me as those of Dr. H. M. Field." Mrs. Henrietta A. Cole, of Des Moines, In., has in

her possession a fine actograph letter of John Howard Payne. It is written on parchiment-like paper, in a hand as neat and graceful as copper-plate en-Professor Nordenskiöld will lead the exploring

expedition to be sent out in May by Dr. Oscar Dickson to the east coast of Greenland, where he will search for the remains of Osterbygd, the old Norse colony whose people were exterminated by the black plague in the fourteenth century. The colony consisted of 190 villages, but no traces of it have ever yet been found since the plague. Joseph Cilley, of Nottingham, N. H., a veteran of

he war of 1812 and an ex-Senator of the United States, is now in his ninety-third year and is enhandermine the prosperity of Paterson very vested property, we shall hear these decorous tion.

States, is now in his ninety-fand year and is eugenfully selected from the prosperity of the chiller of t

sight and hearing are now beginning to fail. He lives in a house built by him in 1824, and is the richest man in the town. For sixty years, it is said, he has drawn a pension of \$40 per month, all of which he has laid aside without disturbing a penny.

Oscar Wilde bobs up again. He was the guest, a fortnight ago, of the Pen and Pencil Club, of Paris, and made an after-dinner speech about his experiences in America. The brightest and best of the many stories he related was one to the effect that at a bail in Leadville he saw a notice over the piano which read: "Please don't shoot the pianist. He is doing his best." This enterprising resurrection of an antediluvian almanae tradition set the company rearing, gave his hearers a high opinion of Oscar as an observer and thinker, and moved Galignani to remark that "there is a freshness of originality about the man that is absolutely fascinating."

"Mr. Stephens's meal hours," said Colonel R. M. Johnston, the close friend and biographer of the late Governor of Georgia, to a reporter of The Baltimore American, " were timed in accordance with the arrival of railroad trains, and no lawyer of any repute, in attendance upon court near by, ever dreamed of putting up at the hotel. From the Judge down they all, upon alighting from the train, walked to the residence of Mr. Stephens, where they knew, whether he were present or absent, they were expected. I have no doubt that it will be found that Governor Stephens had no bank account, or that find it not only a means of convenience but a it will not amount to \$500. He reminded me, source of profit, masmuch as the sale of their in his character of a promuscuous giver, of Bishop publications will be materially facilitated by its | Johns of old, who, remonstrated with for being three times imposed upon by the same individual, said: 'Well, well; perhaps he is trying me to see who will get tired first-he of asking or I of giving." Colonel Johnston also related a curious dream which he had on the very night of Mr. Ste-phens's death. He dreamed that he and Mr. Stephens phens's death. He dreamed that he and Mr. Stephens were riding in a buggy to no particular place, as he could remember, when a small sheet of water appeared before them. They dreve on, but the water kept growing higher and higher about the carriage, until it appeared as if about to engulf them. At last came one huge wave, and Mr. Stephens, rising with the water about his waist, cried out: "I am gone this time," and immediately disappeared.

WASHINGTON, March 14 .- Although Secretary Folger is still confined to his bed, he is considered to be much better to-day than he was yesterday. The rumors which have been revived concerning the Secretary's intention to resign his office in tavor of Mr. Crowley appear to have no more foundation than when they were first put in circu-

GENERAL NOTES.

In November, 1880, the telephone service in Parls had only 454 subscribers; it has now 2,392. The aggregate length of the wires, which are all under ground, is about 2,187 miles.

At a general meeting of the British National Biffe Association on February 28 the Duke of Cambridge, who presided, said that nothing could exceed the duess and hospitality showed to the British team during its recent visit to the United States, and added that the Council of the Association looked forward with pleasure to giving an American team the heartiest wel-

A palette which was used by Turner the artist has been presented to the English National Gallery and will henceforth be exhibited with the pictures Trafalgar-square. It was given by Turner to his citor, Mr. George Cobb, and by him to Mr. R. H. bs, a Brighton artist, who has now given it to the She stood in the middle of a Richmond street

helpless from terror, while a drove of untained mules, ears dormant and tails rampant, bore down upon her like a hurricane. He dropped his valise, sprang to her side, whirled her over the gutter, and the mules rushed past in the darkness —Miss Alice Beauchamp, of Boston, is about to become Mrs. Louis Snearer, of West Point, Miss., and at last a credit can be entered on the mule's debt-burdened ledger. The irony of fate, otherwise known as the

sareasm of destiny, is illustrated by the announcement that no fewer than forty nine persons committed suicide in the single city of Milan during the recent carnival, when everybody was supposed to be given over to a riot of gayety. It is altogether probable, however, that the general license of the time played pranks even with the statistics of self-destruction, and that nine is nearer than forty-nine to the real number of suicides.

The coffee blight seems to be traversing the globe. It has spread from Ceylon and the Fiji Islands to Brazil, where the loss is already so serious that the Minister of Agriculture is making every effort to discover a means of stopping it. The product of one of the largest plantations, which in the past has regularly been more than 200 tons annually, has fallen to an insignificant amount. One theory attributes the blight to minute purasities at the root of the plant; another to exhaustion of the soil through neg lect.

The leading journal of the North of Ireland, The Belfast Northern Whig, has lately said: "It is no doubt unfortunate that in some respects Ulster canno be separated from the other three provinces of Ireland. This province suffers from misconduct in the South and West with which the people have no sympathy. . . .

Relic-hunters are eagerly calculating how much they can afford to bid for the carriage in which rode in the procession that escorted him through the streets of this city in August, 1824. That honored vehicle has been piously preserved ever since that time by the Hon. John D. Yates, of Chittenango, but he-has finally decided to part with it, and it will be sold at auction in Chittenango next Wednesday. It is said that nearly every lover of curiosities in the State is now centemplating with "a pleasure that's almost a pain" the chances of his obtaining this interesting relic.

Serieant Ballantine has been visiting Salt Lake City in company with the gentleman who as correspondent of The New-York World, last year, found everything lovely among the Mormons except polyga-Unless he is misrepresented in a dispatch to The St. Louis Globe-Democrat from Denver, Col., where he stopped on his return from Utah, the English barrister goes the American correspondent one better and finds polygamy itself an excellent institution. He declares that the Edmunds law is plainly unconstitutional, that he found no pluses of evil in Mormonism which are no counterbalanced by good, and that, as a means o peopling a new country, polygamy is deserving of commendation and encouragement.

An old lady of respectable appearance was recently arrested at a draper's shop in Parls on suspicion that she was circulating counterfeit coin. A clerk had pronounced bad a sliver five-franc piece which she offered him, whereupon she had drawn from a large canvas bag another coin of the same deponination, which he likewise rejected. The police authorities found sus-pended under her dress by a belt and wires five bags ntaining 240 five-franc pieces, 1,000 francs in gold, six bank-notes of 1,000 francs each, and 100,000 francs in public securities. In reply to questions the old lady gave her name and address, and said that as sae lived alone she always carried her fortune about with her; moreover, she doubted that her coin was bad, as she never accepted a piece without examining it. The Commissary of Police sent the silver to a money-changer, who at once declared that the shopman was mistaken, as there was not a bad piece among the coins. The haly then realizated her treasure in its hiding place, and left the police station somewhat disturbed by her adventure.

POLITICAL NEWS.

The Massachusetts Republicans will be compelled this year to learn a few lessons in practical politics. watched the progress of heated campaigns in other States, and mentally congratulated themselves that they were not as other men are. That period of high-tened politics is over, for the present at least. If the Republicans expect to defeat Butler next fall, in case he decides to run again, they will have to come down to work which they have heretofore despised. A kid-glove canvass against such an opponent as the "Widow" is out of the question. The Republicans in most of the States will have a season of repose this year, and they will enjoy seeing their brethren in Massachusetts engaged in a rough-and-tumble contest with their versatile adversary.

A Congressman, who is described as "dapper" and as "somewhat preminently mentioned" in connection with the Speakership of the next House, has given The Baltimore American's Washington correspondent a peep into the political future. He has Congress all organized, in his wind, with Carlisle as Speaker, Raudolph Tucker at ,the head of the Ways and Means Committee, ex-Senator Eaton as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, Hewitt as chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, Blackburn as chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Springer at the head of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, and so on. The name of this "dapper" and "somewhat prominently mentioned "Congressman is not given, however. Can it be Cox ?

A large majority of the Republican papers commend cordially the new tariff law as a whole. The dissent is much less than those who watched the comnents of the press, while the bill was under discussion in Congress, had been led to expect. The general opinion is also that it will strengthen the Republican party in the country and add to its chances of carrying the next

His voice is strong, his hand steady, though his very little fault with the measure. The free trade organi and those that have no convictions on the subject are of course red-mouthed against it. Their anger arises largely from the fact that any tariff bill at all was

The Indiana Legislature adjourned two weeks ago, but the reputation it made becomes more offensive as time passes. It is pronounced by impartial judges to have been the most inefficient and corrupt body that ever disgraced the legislative balls of that State. Even the Democrats admit that it has done incalculable harm to the party. Its work when examined is found to be more blameworthy than was supposed. Necessary measures were left unpassed, and the whole time of the session was devoted to making one grand grab at the patronage of the State. Everything was mide subservient to this. The Democrats succeeded in accomplishing their purpose, but in order to go it they had to leave the Government without an appropriation for its support. The party is now contemplating the wreck and wondering whether it could have

The delay of the Ohio Legislature in settling the liquor question has called out some comments from the Republican papers, which have, perhaps, been more severe than just. The subject has been a difficult one to deal with. The Democrats stand ready to take advantage of any blunder the Republicans make, the saloon keepers are actively hostile to all legislation and the Prohibitionists with characteristic mulishness are ready to defeat any law which does not exactly suit them. Amid these conflicting circumstances it was only right that the Legislature should be accorded ample time to onsider and digest the measures before it. There is probably no State in the Union where so many obstacles are met with in dealing with the liquor question as in Onlo, most of which are due to the peculiar construction of its constitution. If the present Legislature succeeds in settling the matter it will deserve praise for doing what its predecessors have failed to accomplish.

General Singleton, of Illinois, who ran as an Independent Democrat for Congress last year and was defeated, expects to see the Democracy fall into a hole if it can find one. "The trouble is," he says, " that we have got too large a majority in the next Congress. Too many men want to lead. Presidential aspirants among us may be our downfall. If prudent we can hold the sentiment of the country now in our favor, make a clean record and win the Presidency. It is fortunate for us that the Republicans passed the Tariff bill. The Democrats would have been torn all to pieces in attempt ing to adjust it next winter. The Southern men are getting to be protectionists, and in twenty years the greatest claims for protection will come from the Southern States." That sums up the Democratic situation impartially. It is doubtful, however, if General Singleton would have gamed so clear an idea of it had be been elected to the next Congress. As it is, his belated wisdom will be of no use apparently to any one but himself.

PUBLIC OPINION.

NOT FEELING HILARIOUS.

From The Philadelphia Press (Rep).

Democrats are looking forward to the control of the next House with a great deal more interest than enthusiasm. The last Congress has put the tariffazor within convenient distance of the Democratic problem.

monkey.

THE REPUBLICAN SITUATION.

From The Utica Herald Rep).

There are but two ways in which we can look upon the next National Convention. It will either be a gathering of Republicans linent upon the permanent success of the weele party, or a gathering of Republican factions intent upon the temporary trumph of one faction over another. If it shall turn out to be the former, the party can enter the presidential canvass with a splendid incentive to a battle where the chance of victory will be worth the figuring for. If it shall be the latter, the Republican party will have been foredoomed to defeat before the convention adjourns. The quarrel in our own ranks went so far, during the recent canvass, that it must now he healed, or it must be accepted as a permanent schism. The day for compromise after conventions is over. It must be either disruption or reunion.

NO FREE TRADE FOR THE PRODUCING CLASSES The poor people, and especially the laboring men and producing classes of this country, can never be made to believe that the depublican tariff system works to their injury. They understand too well why it is that professional men and non-producers—simple consumers—of all ranks are anxious to advance the cause of free trade and low tariff. A reduction in the prices of proad-—of an ranks are an analysis to accurate the cause of trace and low tariff. A reduction in the prices of broadcloth and foreign goods of every variety used by the latter would be accompanied by a reduction of wares. Only the consumers would be benefited by that result. The producers, the bone and sinew of the country, the men who earn their living by the sweat of their brows, would be the losers.

would be the losers.

THE CURRENT OF BUSINESS READY TO START.

From The Pattadelphia Inquirer (Rep.)

Business men have carefully reviewed the situation, have revised their calculations and plans in accordance with the new factors introduced by National legislation, and are now ready to go ahead. The scalar of spring trade is at hand, navigation will presently be open, the distribution of merchandise through the South and West has already begun; the balance of international trade is turning heavily in our favor; gold importations were noted last week to the extent of four or five militions of dollars; the demand for bank accommodation from all branches of business is rapidly extending, and all the current signs of the times point to renewed and healthful commercial activity. The country has given the new Tariff and Kevenue bill a thorough and searching discussion; the public mind has been pretty much made up about it, and now we are ready to go to work again.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

ITALIAN OPERA-"IL TROVATORE." Another large audience assembled in the Academy of Mustic last night to welcome the recurs of Mme. Patti. The Irving Piace lottery had turned out Trovatore." instead of " Linda." ing and revolting. If the South and West of Ireland, were as the North there would be no difficulty in promoting Irish commercial enterprises."

Trovatore," instead of "Linda." Leonors is hardly one of Mme. Pattl's great puris, but she is particularly strong in death-scenes but she is particularly strong in death-scenes and made a profound impression by her acting at the close. She received only moderate applause upon her entrance, but compelled unstinted tributes during the course of the opera, particularly in the "Tacca la notte," and by the exquisite perfection of the "D'amor sull' ali rosse." There was, indeed, the same old charm of absolute perfection in the voice, and

entire fitness in every line and note of the singing. entire fitness in every line and note of the singing.

Mmc. Scalchi's Arucena was observed what keen interest. It searcely sains ber, musically, though we have never heard the "Si is stance-exa" sung with such searching power. Mmc. Scalchi makes the part more human than is usual, and thus greatly multiplies the points of contact between the Arucena of the stage and the apprehension and sympally of the spectator. Her working out of her local in song ann action is through a multipude of minute strokes, which are employed to secure it. Signor Nicolini sang Manrico very unpleasantly. The assurance with which are employed to secure it. Signor Nicolini sang Manrico very unpleasantly. The assurance with which are employed to enach minustered by the audience on the spot; and mis conduct in running twice out of his prison to share plaudits designed for Mine. Path, who was the sole occupant of the stage, turned her seems into burlesque. Signor Galassi, who took the part of the Count, way not in his usual form.

MISS LOWELL'S RECITAL.

There was only a small audience at Mist Augusta Lowell's organ recital in Chickering Hall, yesterday afternoon. Those who were not so fortunate as to be there missed a pleasure. Miss Lowell's organ playing is masterful in every mode which she practised yes terday. She was entirely unaided at the organ, though older organists might have needed some attendance about the stops and the music pages in work like Thiele's great Air and Variations in A-flat, and the Bach Gminor fugue. Miss Lowell also played Gullmant's "Grand Choeur" (op. 18); an arrangement by Mr. S. P. Warren of the Bridal Song from Jensen's " Wedding Music "; Mendelssohn's "Marche Caprice," from op. 22; and the organ part of Corelli's D-minor sonata, with the vio-ionicello of Mr. Theodor Liebe. Mr. Liebe also played the Coligato with Bach's "My Heart Ever Faithful," sung by Miss Ida W. Hubbell, and Mr. Emil Senger sang a well-made song of Miss Lowell's composition.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

The fifth of the Orange Philharmonic concerts occurs this evening. Miss Emma Juch will be the The sale of seats for Mr. Grau's French Opera

season at the Casino yielded \$5,000 by 6 o'clock of the first day (Taesday). "The Redemption" was again produced in Philadelphia last evening, under the direction of Mr. Theodore Thomas.

Mrs. Langtry will reappear in New-York late April, at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, and fill a short

The business with "Micaela" has improved greatly at the Standard Theatre, and the revival of Pinafore "is therefore postponed to Saturday evening, March 17. "The Queen's Lace Handkerchief," lately at

the Castno, has been taken to Haverly's Theatre, Brooklyn, and will thence be conveyed to Haverly's Theatres in Philadelphia and Sau Francisco. Mme. Etelke Barry, the St. Petersburg ac-

tress, of whom mention has several times been made, is to come forth at the Pitth Avenue Theatre on May 7. This lady has taken lessons in English pronunciation from Mr. Herman Vezin, of London. At Hamburg, recently, the son of Carl Formes, the renowned basso, acted in the German com-pany supporting Edwin Booth, and particularly distin-

guished himself by an excellent performance of The Fool-one of the most difficult and most beautiful parts in Mr. E. J. Miles, of Cincinnati, the new lessee of the Bijou Opera House in this city, is the director, in Cincinnati, of Robinson's Opera House, the Grand The-

tre and the Dramatic Festival. For the last-named affair Mr. Miles has appointed Mr. W. H. Daly to be stage manager and property man.

Mr. George Edgar and a carefully selected